

Search Engines Review

Engines, Directories, Guides
and Reference Materials -
Annotated

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Single and Meta Search Engines

Single Search Engines

ALIWEB Home Page - Public service provided by NEXOR. Located in England making connection to Home Page slow at peak times.

Alta Vista - Full text searchable index of the Web or USENET news groups; comprehensive; use of capitals =exact match search; limited boolean but allows refining of results; language option; advanced search option; default operator - or

ArchiePlexForm - Archie gateway site; locates ftp sites (anonymous ftp files) on the Internet; search options evident on page; searches may take a very long time.

CUSI Services - Configurable Unified Search Engine identifies indexing services available on the Internet.

Excite - Concept search; keyword list prompt for refining; capitalized words = proper nouns, searched as phrases; site grouping feature; "" for phrase search; power search; default operator - or

Single Search Engines

FAST - Basic search; keyword and phrase searching; results eliminate duplication; 3 search options and explanation available.

GoTo - Former World Wide Web Worm; does not do well with acronyms; rank for \$\$\$; phrase, boolean + - () in combination with AND OR; auto-clustering

HotBot - Search for people, URLs, or any word or phrase contained in a web page; date, domain or media delineation; search options shown in green navigation bar; "" = phrase search; automatic clustering of results; default operator - and

InfoJump - Article search indexing periodicals and online versions of print publications, including magazines and newspapers; boolean searches, phrase searches, category or periodical title searches; date-restricted searches; results sorted by relevance or date.

Infoplease - Searches an encyclopedia, dictionary & almanacs; biographies search

Single Search Engines

Infoseek / Go - Plain-language queries; clusters results by site - can be ungrouped; simple and advanced search options; language options; date sorting; default operator - or

LawCrawler - Keyword and boolean search; parameters evident on opening screen

Livelinek Pinstripe - Former Open Text Index; full-text search for business community; must use singular and plural forms with OR operator.

Lycos - Community-oriented network of sites; identify and categorize online information by searching and retrieving links from members' sites; custom search to specify loose, fair, good, close or strong match; advanced search option; 21 mirror sites including US.

Northern Light - Fee and free; natural language searching; boolean AND, OR, NOT, +, -, phrase "", results sorted into folders; special collection results fee-based; date sorting; advanced search; default operator - and

Single Search Engines

PsychCrawler - American Psychological Association provided index for psychology-related resources available on the Web; search parameters evident on page.

Snap.com - Directory format search; can be customized; simple, phrase "", boolean + -, power search options; good user help files; default operator - and

WebCrawler - Uses excite search engine; content-based index; phrase/keyword searching; "excite" related; "" = phrase search; + - boolean search; 8 international mirror sites, including the US; default operator - or

What Is? - Alphabetical table searches words or terms in definitions

Meta Search Engines

All-in-One Search - 500 engines, databases & indexes

Ask Jeeves - Searches 6 engines plus its own "knowledgebase" of 7 million answers; natural language search; Yahoo!-like format

Beaucoup - Searches up to 14 engines; 1,200 listings of directories & subject indices; topical or subject search depending on area of query; primarily mega link page; world-wide access sites; directory

byteSearch - Smart search 12 engines for information on the web, auctions, companies, dictionary, domain names, ftp, medical, mp3, multimedia, news, package tracking, stocks, or usenet; duplicate elimination; natural language and phrase searching; value-added

Cyber411 - Search 16 engines with select option; removes duplicates; supports some foreign language formats; keyword; boolean AND, OR, NOT, NEAR, "", () phrase

Dogpile - Searches 25 engines in groups of 3; extra searching through Usenet archives, wire stories & software

Meta Search Engines

GoCrawl - Science Search; keyword search of 100s of science sites; truncation *; short list = links; long list = links w/ some content data

Google - A meta engine that uses text-matching techniques with both simple and boolean search operators; popularity ranking but generally useful results; keyword search; "", -"" phrases; full and partial matches; clustering; default operator - and

Google Government Search - See above

Highway61 - Searches 5 engines with "interpretation"; tracks user patience level; a bit eclectic but good

Inference Find - Searches 6 engines but can be configured to call most engines; parallel search merges results, removes redundancies; results w/out URLs or engine searched indications

Internet Sleuth - Searches 6 engines sequentially; best for subject-specific search; descriptions & forms for 3,000+ web sites: directory

Meta Search Engines

Mamma - 7 engines; customize under power options; analyzes queries & formats words & syntax for engines searched; difficult to reach during peak times

MetaCrawler - Searches 9 engines; ranks results; mixed w/engine identifier; single list display w/out duplicates

Profusion - Parallel searches up to 4 engines of over 300 engine base; several select options; worldwide region and topic categories

SavvySearch - Can search up to 100 engines; search results can be saved; available in 20 languages

SETI - For the technology-assisted searcher; customization feature allows choice of engine; keyword, phrase, boolean search options; reformats results for viewing; use back arrow to remain w/in SETI engine

Super Search - Quick index and web site search; listing of additional engines, indices, directories & online references

37.com - Searches up to 37 engine, dictionary, encyclopedia locations; keyword search; default engine appears to be AltaVista

Internet Directories, Catalogs and Guides

Internet Directories, Catalogs and Guides

Argus Clearinghouse - Used to provide a central access point for value-added topical guides which identify, describe, and evaluate Internet-based information sources.

Earth and Environmental Science Registry - A comprehensive index of USGS Web servers, Geologic Information Servers, USGS by theme, and the USGS Geologic Information Home Page. Sponsored by the US Geologic Survey for the research community.

FedWorld Information Network - Comprehensive central access point for searching, locating, ordering and acquiring government and business information; single engine WWW search; 200+ database search

FindLaw - Subject guide for legal and law-related sites; parameters on opening screen

Galaxy - A subject oriented guide to worldwide information and services provided as a public service by America's Health Network (AHN Partners, LP).

Internet Directories, Catalogs and Guides

GoCrawl Science Directory - Keyword searching of 100s of science sites. Sponsored by Yahoo!

GovBot - Database of government Web sites; search capabilities and parameters explicit on initial page

GovernmentIT Portal - Subject arrangement searching for government-related topics; search any of 6 individual Web engines or directories or 4 separate Government engines

Jayde Science - Directory of various science-related subject areas; 4 search methods - proximity, phrase, and & or; dated search, full description or site titles only search result output; search within search option

Librarians' Index to the Internet - A Web index prepared and maintained by CA State U-Berkeley

Internet Directories, Catalogs and Guides

LookSmart - Categorical Web guide; 5 international mirrors including the US. Stumped? Use LookSmartLive! option and get the answer emailed to you.

Magellan - Internet guide; keyword searching; () = phrases; boolean + - AND, OR, AND NOT; default operator - or

Mining Company / About.com - Vertical directory compiled by "professional guides" targeting over 650 environments; searches by topic

MSN Search - Subject guide from Microsoft; uses the alta vista engine to search; search save feature; 6 international mirror sites, including the US.

Netscape Search - Subject guide categorized by volunteer "editors"; links to 9 single engines; limited phrase and complex search; truncation *; boolean and, or, andnot, +, - searches; uses GoogleWebSearch for Web searching; default operator and

Internet Directories, Catalogs and Guides

OpenDirectory Project - Comprehensive Web directory; manually edited contents; often used by other engines as reference tool; as of 11/19/99: 1,191,335 sites - 19,497 editors - 182,140 categories

Querox - Search engines and Internet resources database; slow.

Special Internet Connections - Alphabetized Internet Directory compiled by Scott Yanoff; slow.

Virtual Library Catalog - The oldest catalog of the Web with a new URL, VL pages are recognized as being some of the highest quality guides to particular sections of the Web.

Webrary - A link to the Morton Grove, IL, Public Library directory containing: lists of government officials; bibliographies; weblists for travel, business and genealogy; and web links.

The Why Files - Site seeks to explain the science behind the news; current news stories involving scientific topics with background information

Internet Directories, Catalogs and Guides

World Wide Web Robots, Wanderers, and Spiders - A page describing automated searching tools called Spiders.

YAHOO! - Subject tree directory searching; offers news, stock quotes, classified; world-wide access sites; advanced search option; a "search mall"

Yahoo! People Search - Internet White Pages. Search for e-mail addresses or telephone numbers in non-government domains.

Yellowpages.com - A global listing of retail and other commercial businesses online. Slow to load.

Reference Materials

Reference Materials

APA Referencing - Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association; guide to reference citation maintained by Curtin University of Technology, Library and Information Service.

Babelfish Translator - Foreign language translation service online

Berkeley Digital Library - An online reference tool compiled of databases, html pages, and other variously formatted collections and indexes covering a wide variety of subjects. The site's resources must be individually searched for best results.

Encyclopedia Britannica - Searches through links to what the editors consider the world's best Web sites, plus related books, selections from leading magazines, and the complete Encyclopædia Britannica

Encyclopedia of Psychology - Contains original information generated by respected researchers and practitioners in various fields of psychology and a hierarchical database of links to Websites providing

Reference Materials

Freeality Internet Search Online Encyclopedias -

Search multiple online encyclopedias; links to other reference tools such as Reverse Lookup, maps, travel, and more.

Internet Resources Meta-Index - A loosely categorized meta-index of the various resource directories and indices available on the Internet, including Gopher, WAIS, FTP, and Telnet sites.

Library Resources - A guide to library resources on the Internet including full text for journals and magazines, card catalogs, literature searches and miscellaneous links.

Medical World Search - A full text search interface of approximately 100,000 selected medical Web sites.

The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy - The 17th edition of The Merck Manual (April 1999) online. The site also has links to the entire 2nd edition of The Merck Manual of Geriatrics and part of The Merck Manual of Medical Information--Home Edition with free online access.

Reference Materials

National Atlas of the United States - Design a map or view interactive multimedia maps. Site includes some very early depictions.

New Bartleby - The Twenty-First Century Library - Famous prose and poetry from various authors writings up through the mid-1920s.

1-click Reference Desk - Start page for reference information; search 21 hyperlinked subject categories

Online Dictionary of Mental Health - Covering all of the disciplines with links to sites presenting various viewpoints.

PDR.net for Consumers - Free registration. Online version of the Physician's Desk reference provides the latest drug information, as well as data on detection, prevention, and treatment of many medical conditions.

Reference Materials

Refdesk - Excellent source for reference materials and facts on the Web; includes facts search desk, facts-at-a-glance, help and advice, fact finders, current news and facts

Turabian Style Guide - Guide to reference citation maintained by University Libraries of The University of Southern Mississippi.

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